



## Enduring drought then coping with climate change: Lived experience and local resolve in rural mental health

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**Year:** 2009  
**Journal:** Rural Society. 19 (4): 340-352

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### Abstract:

Climate change awareness has taken a dramatic turn in Australia, intensifying debate over the meaning of prolonged drought for rural futures, with critical implications for rural mental health. This paper is drawn from research on perceptions of Australian climate during a period of marked shift in public awareness of climate change (2004-2007). It utilises oral histories gathered in dryland farm communities of the semiarid Victorian Mallee at the edge of the nation's commercial cropping zone - in particular, the stories of women's health workers - to highlight the interdependency of environmental, economic, political and mental health concerns in rural and remote communities. Focusing on lived experience, the paper explores the narratives through which people have apprehended drought and climate change - in discourse of endurance, uncertainty and putative adaptation - revealing advocacy and local resolve in the provision of rural mental health services, and, fundamentally, a paradigm of embodiment in rural social work.

**Source:** Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change;  
surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional, Policymaker, Public, Researcher

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

**Extreme Weather Event:** Drought

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Rural, Other Geographical Feature

**Other Geographical Feature :** semiarid

**Geographic Location:** 

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Australasia

**Health Impact:** 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Mental Health/Stress

**Mental Health Effect/Stress:** Mood Disorder

**Medical Community Engagement:** 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Workers

**Other Vulnerable Population:** farmers

**Resource Type:** 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

**Resilience:** 

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

**Timescale:** 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content